

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /176 W

----- 123630

R 141511Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3869

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET OIL DELIVERIES TO WESTERN EUROPE

REF: MOSCOW 13662

1. DURING NATO EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICERS DISCUSSION
NOV 13 MENTION MADE OF INDICATIONS THAT USSR MAY BE
SLOWING UP ON DELIVERIES OF OIL TO WESTERN EUROPE.
BOTH FRENCH AND GERMANS REPORT SOVIETS BEHIND ON 1973
DELIVERIES. SHORTFALL ON SOVIET SHIPMENTS OF CRUDE TO
FRANCE NOW REPORTED TO BE 1.5 MILLION TONS. BELGIAN
EMBASSY REPORTS INFORMATION FROM PETROLEUM MINISTRY
SOURCES THAT SOVIET PLANNED EXPORTS TO WESTERN EUROPE
MAY BE REDUCED NEXT YEAR, PARTIALLY BECAUSE USSR
EXPECTS SOME REDUCTION OF IMPORTS FROM MIDDLE EAST. ALSO,
SOVIETS WANT TO SELL HIGHER PROPORTION OF REFINED
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PRODUCTS, LESS CRUDE.

2. COMMENT: SEEMS PROBABLE THAT WITH SUDDEN ENERGY CRUNCH AND RISING WORLD PRICES SOVIETS MAY BE TENDING HOLD BACK ON SOME SHORT-TERM DELIVERIES, POSSIBLY ATTEMPT NEGOTIATION OF NEW CONTRACTS. ALSO, USSR FACING ENERGY PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN (REFTEL). CURRENT SITUATION PROBABLY BEST SUMMED UP BY COMMENT MADE BY PETROLEUM MINISTRY OFFICIAL A FEW DAYS AGO: "OIL IS NOW HARD CURRENCY."
DUBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLIES, PETROLEUM, EXPORTS, IMPORTS, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW14213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731134/aaaaazda.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 13662
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET OIL DELIVERIES TO WESTERN EUROPE
TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005